

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **30 July 2007**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-27. Claims 1-7, and 10-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Engbersen (US Pub. No. 2002/0009076 hereinafter “Engbersen”), Chan et al. (USPN 6,910,028 hereinafter “Chan”), and what was well-known in the art.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-7, and 10-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the method facilitates high speed packet flow in a computer network and a consistent set of rules are applied to a switching mechanism, which is hardware, to facilitate packet flow management. These amendments find proof in [0036]-[0037] of the instant application. Applicant has also amended the specification to limit the computer-readable medium to tangible embodiments, thus overcoming the non-statutory subject matter rejection toward claim 10-18. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-27 were rejected as being unpatentable over Engbersen in view of Chan further in view of what was well-known in the art. Applicant respectfully disagrees because Engbersen and Chan do not disclose combining operations related to managing network flows into a single flow classification and dispatch step.

Engbersen discloses a **classification** method for packets based on its destination address and origin address using range tokens (see [0023] and [0024] of Engbersen). Engbersen does not mention anything about collapsing packets

rules and managing packet flows. Chan, on the other hand, discloses **merging** two or more rulesets based on a merge policy (see col. 4, ll. 16-30 of Chan). However, Chan does not disclose how this rule-merging policy can be applied to packet flow management.

In contrast, the instant application discloses **collapsing** the various operations related to managing network flows into a **single** flow classification and dispatch step, and resolving conflicts between rules for the different network services (see [0009]-[0010] and Fig. 4 of the instant application). Combining management operations of network flows into a single step reduced the network **latency** involved in applying these operations (see[0005]-[0009] and Figs.2-4 of the instant application). There is nothing in Engbersen and Chan, either explicit or implicit, that teaches **collapsing** various operations related to managing network flows into a **single flow classification and dispatch step**. Note that Examiner cited paragraph [0032] and [0061] of Engbersen. However, neither of these paragraphs in Engbersen teaches or suggests collapsing packet flow rules into a single flow classification. These two paragraphs only pertain to longest-matching-prefix operation.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims to clarify that the system collapses various operations related to managing network flows into a single flow classification and dispatch step. These amendments find support in [0005]-[0010], and Fig. 4. of the instant application. No new matter has been added.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that Engbersen or Chan or the combination thereof fails to teach all of the elements in the independent claims. Applicant hence submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-9, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11-18, which depend upon claim 10, and claims 20-27, which depend upon claim 19, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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